

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: December 22, 2000

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-48)

to: John Baugher - KEWN-4
Project Manager

Proposed Action: Acquire Oxbow Ranch - Middle Fork John Day River

Project No: 2000-015-00

Work Order No: 00003021

**Wildlife Management Techniques of Actions Addressed Under this Supplement Analysis
(See App A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS):**

1.1 Modeling the Effects of River Channelization; 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management; 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 2.15 Acquisition of Sensitive Riparian Resources; 3.1 Plant/Protect Vegetative/Conservation Cover; 3.29 Herbicide/Pesticide Application; 4.1 Irrigation Water Management; 6.1 Deferred Grazing.

Location: Grant County, Oregon, Middle Fork John Day River watershed

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO).

Description of the Proposed Action: The CTWSRO proposes to acquire land and water rights on the Middle Fork John Day River to provide dual benefits for fish and wildlife species. The acquisition would be funded by BPA and has Oregon Wildlife Coalition support. The project's specific objectives are to: 1) acquire 1022 acres, 4 miles of stream habitat and approximately 5 cfs of water rights, 2) complete a Habitat Evaluation Procedures analysis, 3) Complete a Hankin and Reeves fish habitat assessment, 4) develop a management and mitigation plan for the property, and 5) maintain habitat values on the property. The project will partially mitigate fish and wildlife impacts for the John Day Dam as outlined in the NPPC's Wildlife Program. The acquisition will include habitat for the following target species: great blue heron, Canada goose, spotted sandpiper, yellow warbler, black-capped chickadee, western meadowlark, California quail, mallard, and mink as well as spring chinook salmon, summer steelhead, bull trout and Pacific lamprey. Habitat protection will be secured through fee title acquisition. Management and enhancement planning will be guided by tribal fish and wildlife experts with input from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Forest Service. The project will compliment several on-going protection and restoration efforts on the John Day River.

Analysis: Shaun Robertson of the CTWSRO completed a compliance checklist for the property that meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision.

The transfer of ownership of the property would have no effect on any threatened or endangered species that may be present at the site. If future management plans include actions that may affect listed species, a biological assessment (BA) on the activities will be submitted to USFWS and/or NMFS, as appropriate. CTWSRO will not take any actions that would affect listed species prior to BPA completing either formal or informal Section 7 consultation with USFWS and/or NMFS.

A study of cultural resources in the Middle Fork John Day was completed as part of a Federal Highways Administration project in 1997 (see checklist for reference). The report identified both historic and prehistoric sites on the Oxbow Ranch. A significant prehistoric site was excavated, and a National Register historic site is present on the property. BPA and CTWSRO have agreed that CTWSRO will conduct a comprehensive survey of cultural resources on the property as part of the property management plan. No ground-disturbing work or other activity that would adversely affect cultural resources will take place prior to preparation of a Cultural Resources Management Plan and approval by the Tribal cultural resources office, the State Historic Preservation Office, and BPA.

Extensive public involvement has taken place for this project, as documented in the checklist, and additional public involvement will be invited during the preparation of the property management plan.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Sections 7.6A, 7.6B, 7.6C, 11.3A, and 11.3D of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds; 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Nancy H. Weintraub
Nancy H. Weintraub
Environmental Project Lead – KEC

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 12/22/2000
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment:
Compliance Checklist

cc:
Mr. Shaun Robertson, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon